

NEWS FROM

NAACP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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ROY WILKINS CALM IN FACE
OF REPORTED PLOT TO KILL
HIM, OTHER RIGHTS LEADERS

NEW YORK. — Sixteen members of the radical Revolutionary Action Movement, arrested here June 21 in an alleged plot to assassinate prominent civil rights leaders and elected Negro officials, apparently represent "the most extreme of the extreme elements among Negroes," according to Roy Wilkins, the prime target of the reported conspiracy.

"Over the years we have received many threats. This, however, is the first time an alleged threat has been reported from a Negro group," Mr. Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told newsmen after the Queens District Attorney's office disclosed the arrests and indictments.

At the news conference here June 21, the NAACP leader was calm, but conceded that disclosure of the alleged plot to assassinate him was "a little unsettling." However, he added firmly, "we never allow danger, real or threatened, to interfere with our work."

Police said the fanatical death plot also involved plans to murder Whitney M. Young, Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, and others whose names were not immediately disclosed.

James Farmer, the former head of the Congress of Racial Equality, said he had been informed by police of the two-year investigation of RAM and had been told he was on the assassination list.

Mr. Wilkins, whose organization has been in the forefront of the civil rights movement for 58 years, said "All of us in this movement are accustomed to threats and realize that they may be carried out. We recognize this as an occupational hazard."

Although previous threats to the NAACP leader "have all turned out to be harmless," Mr. Wilkins recounted the difficulties and dangers he encountered during an extended tour of Mississippi in the 1930's while disguised as a drifter investigating the plight of Negroes displaced by floods. Detection could have meant death by white racist mobs in those days.

Mr. Wilkins cited a list of NAACP staff members and volunteer local officials

who had been killed in the performance of their civil rights activities: Harry T. Moore, Florida field secretary, 1951; Rev. George W. Lee, president of the Belzoni, Miss., Branch, 1955; Medgar W. Evers, Mississippi field secretary, 1963; Vernon Dahmer, vice president, Hattiesburg, Miss., Branch, 1966; and Wharlest Jackson, treasurer, Natchez, Miss., Branch, 1967.

In Congressional testimony made public last month, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover described RAM as "a highly secret all-Negro Marxist-Leninist, Chinese Communist-oriented organization dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system in the U.S. by violence if necessary."

In Philadelphia, police announced the arrest Friday, June 23, of eight persons whom they described as members of RAM. Of the eight, three were released, four charged with vagrancy and later released, and one held on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon, a knife.

Robert Williams, who is now living in Communist China, is reported to have been the first leader of RAM. He fled from this country to Cuba in 1961 while under charges of holding a Monroe, N.C., white couple hostage to force the release of Negro civil rights demonstrators.

The 16 suspects were charged with advocating criminal anarchy and conspiracy to advocate criminal anarchy. Thirteen were accused also of conspiracy to commit arson and seven with possession of dangerous weapons. Two of the defendants were accused of conspiracy to commit murder, with Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Young as the prospective victims.

Seized with the prisoners were more than 30 weapons, including a machine gun, more than a 1,000 rounds of ammunition, explosives, 275 packets of heroin, radio receivers and transmitters, walkie-talkies and subversive literature.

The indictment charged that the defendants had formed a rifle and pistol club "to be used as a cover and front for legal possession of weapons."

NAACP URGES: EXTEND ARMY BAN ON JIM CROW HOUSING

June 24, 1967

NEW YORK. — NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins has praised Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara's June 23 order that all segregated housing near the Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland be placed off limits in the future to military personnel.

Mr. Wilkins said the action, designed to end housing discrimination against Negro servicemen, was "a welcome beginning toward the correction of a shameful discrimination."

The civil rights leader called for similar actions in other parts of the country to enforce off-base desegregation by military fiat. "It emphasizes how much remains to be done to correct the same injustice at hundreds of bases throughout the country," Mr. Wilkins added.

Mr. McNamara said that as of July 1 all military personnel at the Andrews base would be forbidden to lease or rent in any segregated apartment buildings or trailer

courts within three and-a-half miles of the base.

Authoritative sources at the Pentagon said one reason for the decision to take action at this time was a feeling by Mr. McNamara and other Defense officials that it was intolerable that the large number of Negro servicemen returning from Vietnam should have to accept such discrimination.

"Thousands of servicemen," Mr. McNamara said, "are being subjected to humiliating discrimination by refusal of landlords to rent them apartments because of race or creed."

CONSTRUCTION JOBS FOR NEGROES DEMANDED BY PLAINFIELD NAACP

June 24, 1967

PLAINFIELD, N.J. — Officers of the Plainfield, N.J., Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have notified Rutgers University that Federal officials will be urged to insure employment of Negroes on multi-million dollar construction projects under way on the campus.

"To put it bluntly, we intend to see black faces among the construction workers when the Rutgers buildings go up," said Spurgeon Cameron, acting NAACP president, in a recent letter to Rutgers Vice President Malcolm Talbott.

NAACP officers had charged that labor unions working on university projects were discriminating against Negroes. Craft unions involved in the dispute include the plumbers, sheet-metal workers, pipefitters, electrical workers, ironworkers and operating engineers.

Mr. Cameron also reminded Rutgers officials that Labor Secretary Willard Wirtz had ordered \$43 million in Federal funds shut off in the Cleveland, Ohio, area because of discrimination.

"We believe that providing jobs for Negroes is a more important goal than having Rutgers University meet its construction deadlines, and we will enlist the aid of the Federal Government to achieve our goal," the letter stated.

In closing his letter, Mr. Cameron said that "the prevention of riots in our cities lies in jobs, not in sprinklers on the streets during the long, hot summer."

The university is obligated by law when using Federal funds to insure that contractors and unions comply with fair employment codes outlined by the Federal Government.

TRI-STATE NAACP UNITS MOVE TO PREVENT RIOTS

June 24, 1967

PHILADELPHIA. — Phillip H. Savage, tri-state field director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has called on NAACP branches in his area to organize special units to "prevent problems that create community unrest and disorder."

His program was announced on June 20 following receipt of NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins' "red alert" June 15 to all branches and field staff calling

for action to prevent the outbreak of riots.

Mr. Savage suggested that the units be called TOPS—Teenagers' Organization for a Productive Summer—and that the members be used by the NAACP to "ease racial tensions and to bring outbreaks of violence, if they should occur, quickly under control," as was recently done by NAACP "youth patrols" in Tampa, Fla.

Mr. Savage, who directs NAACP activities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, urged the branch leaders to organize TOPS and conduct weekly meetings until school reopens.

"The content of the meeting would deal with various subjects such as recreation, human relations, police, employment and education," Mr. Savage said. "At each meeting an expert in each of the areas of concern would discuss with the group problems relating to them."

NAACP PROTESTS HEAD OF JIM CROW
SCHOOL AS HEAD START DIRECTOR

June 24, 1967

COLUMBIA, S.C. — State units of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have protested the appointment of the headmaster of a private segregated school as director of a federally-supported Head Start program.

I. DeQuincey Newman, state field director of the NAACP, joined the Allendale and Barnwell NAACP branches and the Barnwell County Citizens Club in protesting the appointment of the former headmaster.

In a telegram sent June 17 to the Office of Economic Opportunity, Mr. Newman said, "Such an appointment undermines confidence in supposedly racially integrated programs and can hardly be accepted with dignity by those who are sensitive to claims of American democracy."

Mr. Newman also charged that the appointee was head of "a privately operated institution organized and fostered as a haven for parents who will not submit to the U.S. Supreme Court decision of 1954 and Federal guidelines on school desegregation."

LBJ HONORS NAACP YOUTH

June 24, 1967

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Edward Leroy Whitfield, president of the Arkansas NAACP Youth Council, was among ten Negroes cited this year as Presidential Scholars.

After meeting the President in a White House ceremony, Mr. Whitfield, a graduate of Little Rock's Central High School, said he will attend Cornell University to prepare himself to become a social reformer.